

56 Name: Rupert Covered Bridge
Location: Fishing Creek between Town of Bloomsburg and Montour Township on
Rt. 449 off L.R. 19079 and near Pa. Rt. 42 in the village of Rupert.

UTM: Zone 18 N4537520 E 376080 Acreage: .18
Owner: Columbia County

Stream: Fishing Creek
Truss Type: Burr Truss-Arch design
Builder: Jessee M. Beard
Year: 1847

End Post to		Road Surface:
End Post Length:	185 feet, 4 inches	Width: 17 feet, 9½ inches
Clearance:	12 feet	Load: 3 tons (county records)

Distinguishing

Features: Burr Truss-Arch design with eight diagonal beams on either side of the central king post.

The roof is of tarred metal underlain with wooden shingles.

The portals are designed as curved archways and are made of boards placed horizontally.

Although accomodating only a single lane of traffic, the archway and roadway are wider than on many of the other bridges.

Condition: It is in need of some minor repairs.

Some wall boards and roof panels are missing and should be replaced. Otherwise they are in fairly good condition.

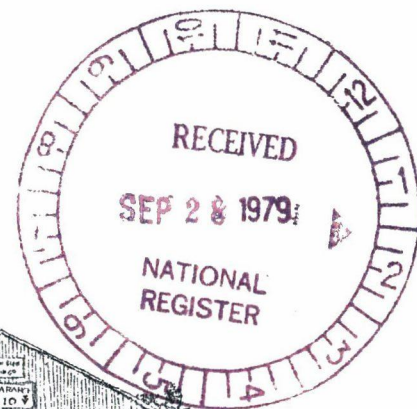
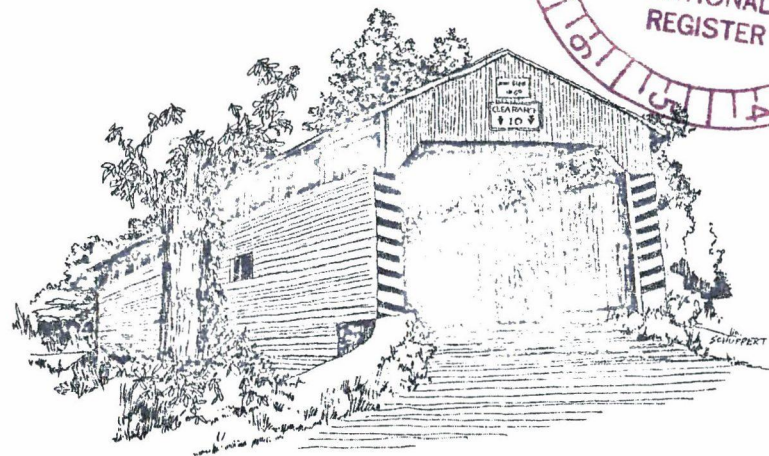
Steel reinforcements have been added to the Burr Truss-Arch at the ends of the arches where they join the abutments.

At one end of the bridge only a small portion of the original abutment remains. Most of this abutment has been repaired with concrete.

The other huge abutment is still primarily stone and mortar.

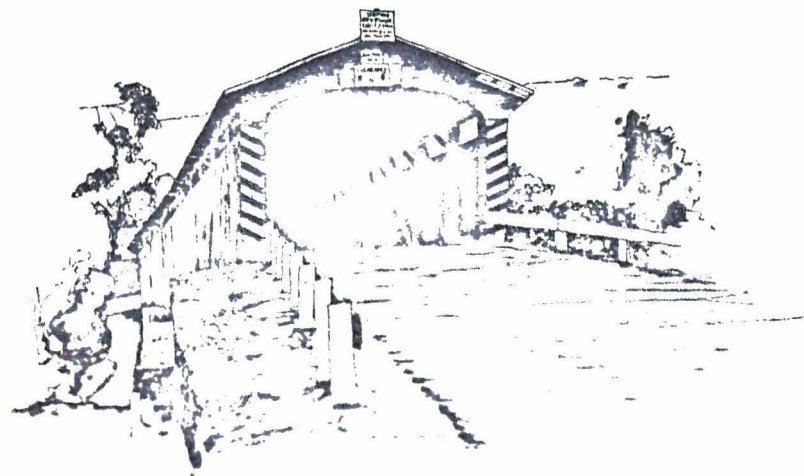
#69 Wanich Bridge - is located on Little Fishing Creek between Hemlock and Mount Pleasant Townships, Columbia County. North of Fernville and Bloomsburg, it is on Twp. Rte. 493 off Pa. Rte. 42.

George Russell built the Wanich bridge in 1844 at a cost of \$500.00. John Wanich was a farmer who resided nearby. (see photo to right)



#56 Rupert Bridge - is located between the Town of Bloomsburg and Montour Township in Columbia County. Spanning Fishing Creek, it is on Twp. Rte. 449, off LR 19079, and near Pa. Rte. 42, in the village of Rupert.

Costing \$1,637.00, the Rupert bridge was built in 1847 by Jesse W. Beard. It was named after the nearby village, which was settled by Leonard Rupert in 1788. Rupert established a ferry across the river and his home became a popular stopping off place for travelers. (see photo to right)



Property Covered Bridges of Columbia
and Montour Counties Thematic Resources

State PA (Columbia + Montour) Working Number 9.28.79.2286

TECHNICAL

Photos 48
Maps 11

CONTROL

25 covered bridges in the 2 counties built between 1800-1899. they are nominated for architecture and engineering. the description and statement of significance are adequate.

HISTORIAN

accept
Patrick Andrus
11.5.79

Statements of significance are identical for all bridges, but there is a reasonable amount of descriptive material for each one. Bridges meet criteria as examples of a building type with several variations on construction technique.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
O'Connell
11/29/79

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2-5-80

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered NOV 29 1979

INT:2106-74



#4

Covered Bridges of Columbia County

PD: 1979 + Montour Counties

PC: B. Pennesi

PV: Rupert Covered Bridge

(38-19-33)

Columbia + Montour
Counties

SEP 28 1979

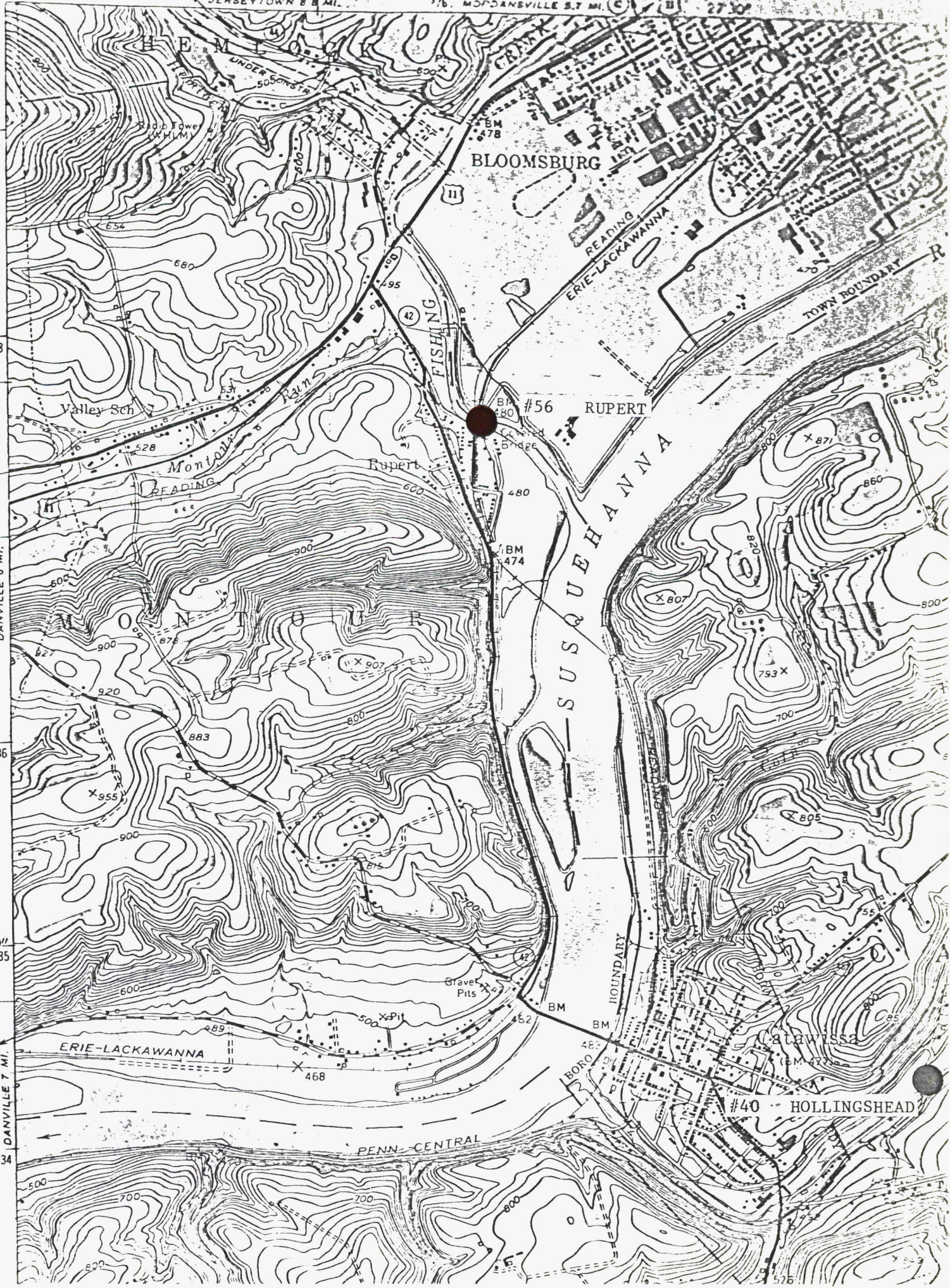
THEMATIC
RESOURCES

NOV 29 1979

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

41°00' 76°30' 74°00' E
JERSEYTOWN 8 MI. MILLVILLE 10 MI. 176. MORDANEVILLE 5.7 MI. WEST FAIRVIEW 12 MI. DERWICK 12 MI. 27°30'

4539000 N
4538
4536
57°30' 4535
DANVILLE 7 MI. 4534



BLOOMSBURG

RUPERT

HOLLINGSHEAD

#56

#40

Valley Sch

PENN-CENTRAL

ERIE-LACKAWANNA

Gravel Pits

X-Pit

Montgomery Rd

FISHING

SUSQUEHANNA

READING
ERIE-LACKAWANNA

TOWN BOUNDARY

BOUNDARY

BORO

CLAWISSA

BM 477

BM 474

BM 480

BM 478

BM 528

BM 907

BM 955

BM 489

BM 468

BM 462

BM 483

BM 482

X 871

X 860

X 807

753 X

X 805

X 800

X 805

X 800

X 800

X 800

X 800

CATAWISSA, PA.

NW/4 CATAWISSA 15' QUADRANGLE

N 4052.5 - W 7622.5/7.5



Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000712

79003186

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Inventory of Historic Places

Official use only
NUMBER:

SEE INFORMATION SHEET BEFORE FILLING OUT FORM
PLEASE TYPE

(38-19-33)

1 HISTORICAL NAME OF PROPERTY:

Rupert Covered Bridge #56

2 LOCATION:

STREET Twp. Rt. 449 SR 449 CITY Village of Rupert
TOWNSHIP Between Town of Bloomsburg and Montour Township COUNTY Columbia 11th
Congressional District

3 CLASSIFICATION:

PRESENT USE

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Park
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious
<input type="checkbox"/> site		NA	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
<input type="checkbox"/> object	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: unrestricted		
		<input type="checkbox"/> No		

4 OWNERSHIP:

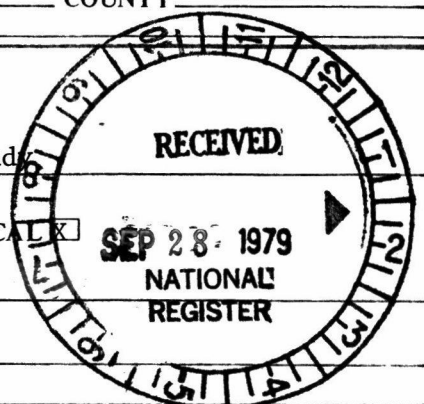
NAME Columbia County Commissioners STREET Main Street, Court House
CITY,TOWN Bloomsburg STATE Pennsylvania ZIP 17815

5 LOCATION of LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Columbia County Court House
STREET Main Street CITY,TOWN Bloomsburg COUNTY Columbia

6 REPRESENTATION in EXISTING SURVEYS:

TITLE OF SURVEY: Columbia/Montour Historic Transportation Study
DATE OF SURVEY: 1976 FEDERAL STATE LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Columbia County Court House
CITY Bloomsburg STATE Pennsylvania



7

DESCRIPTION:

Check One

Original Site

Moved Date _____

Architectural Description: A written description including features such as stories in height, length and width, number of bays, alterations and additions to the main structure; type of roof, windows, door, chimney design and placement, materials and style of construction; and a floor plan, if possible.

The Rupert Covered Bridge is 185.33 feet long, with a roadway width of 17.75 feet, and clearance of 12 feet. It is of Burr Arch Truss with eight diagonal beams on either side of the central king post. The arch is superimposed on the truss system. Some reinforcements have been added to the structure.

The roof is of tarred metal underlain with wooden shingles. The portals are designed as curved archways and are made of boards placed horizontally. The wall coverings consist of plain vertical planks.

The floor consists of horizontal boards over which two runways have been built. No steel beams have been added to the undergirding.

One abutment is primarily stone and mortar, while the other has been replaced by concrete. Only a small portion of this abutment is stone and mortar.

Oak, pine or hemlock was generally the type of lumber used in the building of these bridges.



SIGNIFICANCE:

Statement: Write in your own words a brief statement of significance for each area checked.

PERIOD

1600 - 1699
1700 - 1799

1800 - 1899
1900 - Present

architect: _____
builder: Jesse M. Beard

AREA

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
ART
COMMERCE
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMUNITY PLANNING
CONSERVATION
ECONOMICS
EDUCATION
ENGINEERING
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
INDUSTRY
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LAW
LITERATURE
MILITARY
MUSIC
PHILOSOPHY
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
RELIGION
SCIENCE
SCULPTURE
SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
THEATER
TRANSPORTATION
OTHER (SPECIFY)

Engineering - Open wooded bridges were the first to be built. But because of their short life span, covered bridges became more popular. Columbia County's bridges are designed with either the King Post for shorter spans, Warren Truss, Queen Post for longer spans, Theodore Burr or the Howe Truss. Because covered bridges have not been built within the last half century in Columbia County, the design and engineering of these structures is unique.

Transportation - Because of the rapid growth of towns, bridges were needed to facilitate travel. Because much of the business was geared to farming, saw and grist mills, bridges were needed to provide transportation between these various activities.



9 BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

List major books and documents consulted to write the inventory form

The Covered Bridges of Columbia County,
Columbia and Montour Historic Transportation Study

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acerage of NOMINATED PROPERTY .18

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	3	7	6	0	8	0	4	5	3	7	5	2	1	0
ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING									

B

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING									

C

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING									

D

ZONE		EASTING				NORTHING									

11 FORM PREPARED BY:

NAME Bill Pennesi

ORGANIZATION Columbia County Planning Commission TELEPHONE 717-784-5444
(if any)

STREET Main Street CITY Bloomsburg

STATE PA ZIP 17815 DATE February 13, 1979

12 SEND COMPLETED FORM TO:

Office of Historic Preservation
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
P. O. Box 1026 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

